



**MEMORANDUM**

To: Members of the House Committee on Natural Resources, Great Lakes, Land Use and Environment

From: Doug Roberts, Jr., Director of Environmental and Regulatory Affairs

Subject: Senate Bill 332 and House Bill 4603 – Aquatic Nuisance Species

Date: 4/27/05

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The purpose of this memo is to indicate that the Michigan Chamber of Commerce supports the S-4 substitute for Senate Bill 332 and the H-1 substitute for House Bill 4603. We would like to applaud Representative Palsrok and Senator Birkholz for their efforts in developing this legislation and their advocacy for a basin wide approach to addressing the issues related to aquatic nuisance species.

Chamber Members Respond

Chamber members overwhelmingly agree that legislation is needed to protect against the introduction of new aquatic nuisance species in the Great Lakes. The members of the Michigan Chamber had a number of reasons for supporting this package of legislation including reducing compliance costs, supporting tourism, and enhancing quality of life in Michigan.

Substitute Includes Performance Standards

The S-4 substitute for SB 332 and the H-1 substitute for HB 4603 provide a number of reforms that allow the Michigan Chamber to fully support the legislation. As introduced the legislation did not specify what type of fee would be charged, what the cost of the fee would be, or the time frames the Department would be held to in issuing these permits. The S-4 substitute and the H-1 substitute clarify these items. The substitutes require the DEQ to issue NPDES permits within 180 days for Ocean Going vessels.

Regional Solution is Needed

To address the issue of Aquatic Nuisance Species in the Great Lakes a regional solution is needed. This package of legislation creates a framework to bring together decision makers from other states to help develop basin wide legislation. We applaud Senator Birkholz and Representative Palsrok for beginning this process. We are hopeful that other states will follow Michigan's lead.

The Michigan Chamber asks you to support **Senate Bill 332 (S-4) and HB 4603 (H-1)**. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me or Rich Studley at (517) 371-2100.